



## Richard Wilson

June 11, 1937 - April 4, 2023

Richard Wilson, 85, of Frankfort, a Kentucky journalist for nearly 40 years, died peacefully at his home on April 4, 2023. He was a reporter and bureau chief for the Louisville Courier-Journal for 32 years and previously a reporter for the former Lexington Leader and The State Journal of Frankfort. Upon his 1999 retirement from the Louisville newspaper, he was coordinator of a Frankfort-based state government internship for students attending Kentucky's independent colleges. During 2002-03, on leave from that position, he was interim director of the University of Kentucky's School of Journalism and Media.

Wilson is survived by Deborah, his spouse of 58 years, of Frankfort; sons Peter, (Maia), of Frankfort, KY and granddaughter Isabella and grandsons, Gabriel and Jacy and Geoffrey (Laura), of Lexington, KY and granddaughters Ainsley and Ava. He is predeceased by his parents, Vernon and Peg Wilson, of Towanda, PA, a brother, Gerald, of York, PA, and a sister, Polly, of Selinsgrove, PA.

Wilson was a native of Towanda, PA and a Towanda High School graduate. He also attended Morehead State University and graduated from the University of Kentucky. A member of both the UK and the Morehead alumni associations, he was also an Army veteran and graduate of the Army Information School and Army Reserve Officer Candidate School at Fort Chaffee, AR. He was a member of the South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame and the Honorable Order of Kentucky

Colonels.

During his years with The Courier-Journal Wilson worked in Louisville and in the newspaper's Frankfort and Lexington bureaus. He was primarily known for his statewide coverage of higher education, but he also frequently wrote about general breaking news, including criminal trials and politics. Perhaps his greatest tribute as a reporter came from the late Kentucky historian-laureate Dr. Thomas D. Clark, who once wrote that Wilson's byline atop education stories "came to imply that the report underneath was the distillation of serious investigation and penetrating analysis."

During his undergraduate years in college he won four varsity letters in track and cross country at Morehead and was a reporter and editor of the Kentucky Kernel, UK's student daily newspaper.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 3:00-5:00 pm at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church located at 224 Steele St., Frankfort, KY.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the South Frankfort Presbyterian Church Book of Remembrance and Bluegrass Care Navigators.

Arrangements under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory. Condolences may be shared via the online guestbook at [www.harrodbrothers.com](http://www.harrodbrothers.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **12**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

South Frankfort Presbyterian Church  
224 Steele St  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Tribute Wall

FB

“ Sorry to be so late on this. Just saw Dick's obituary online. When I arrived at The Courier-Journal in early 1968, I was assigned a desk next to Dick. He welcomed me and made me feel at home in that environment. Good guy with a ready smile and a true professional. Best regards to Debbie and the rest of Dick's family. Fred Bales

Fred Bales - May 01, 2024 at 04:16 PM



“ Richard Wilson

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM

DS

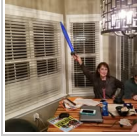
“ Dick was a dedicated journalist and a Friend. His work with interns after retirement was very important. We need to find a way to bring back reporters like him to the news cycle.

don Stosberg - April 12, 2023 at 11:44 AM

CN

“ To Mrs. Wilson (Deborah) and family - Dick was an absolutely great reporter, a journalist of the highest caliber - A terrific role model for others in the profession or those aspiring to be - Above all, Dick was a wonderful person -  
May he rest in peace, and may God grant comfort to you and your family, and all those whose lives he touched - Sincerely, Carl Nathe.

Carl Nathe - April 11, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ Dick was a member of the Morehead State track and cross country team when I was growing up in Morehead and my father was the coach. We followed his illustrious career as a journalist. He was a fine man and a wonderful storyteller. My father was so proud that Dick had been one of "his boys."

-----  
**Elaine Palencia** - April 09, 2023 at 05:08 PM

DD

“ Dianne & Paul Doss purchased the Amazing Grace 44" Sonnet for the family of Richard Wilson.



-----  
**Dianne & Paul Doss** - April 09, 2023 at 01:24 PM

KK

“ Dick and I lost touch over the last few years but we were associated professionally and personally for more than 30 years. I have never respected another human being more than him. May he rest in peace. Keith Kappes, Morehead.

-----  
**Keith R. Kappes** - April 07, 2023 at 03:05 PM

FE

“ Dick made such a difference in my life as a journalist; he was also a wonderful friend to me and so many other young reporters. Debbie, I am thinking of you and your sons and grandchildren -- I can only imagine how much you will miss him.

-----  
**Fran Ellers** - April 06, 2023 at 05:54 PM

JG

“ Dick and I became friends when we were both students at the University of Kentucky majoring in Journalism and serving as Editors of *The Kentucky Kernel*, UK's award winning newspaper. We were also roommates my senior year. In addition we were "Best Men" in each other's weddings. Dick was a great friend and I will miss him very much.

---

**Jack Guthrie** - April 06, 2023 at 03:24 PM